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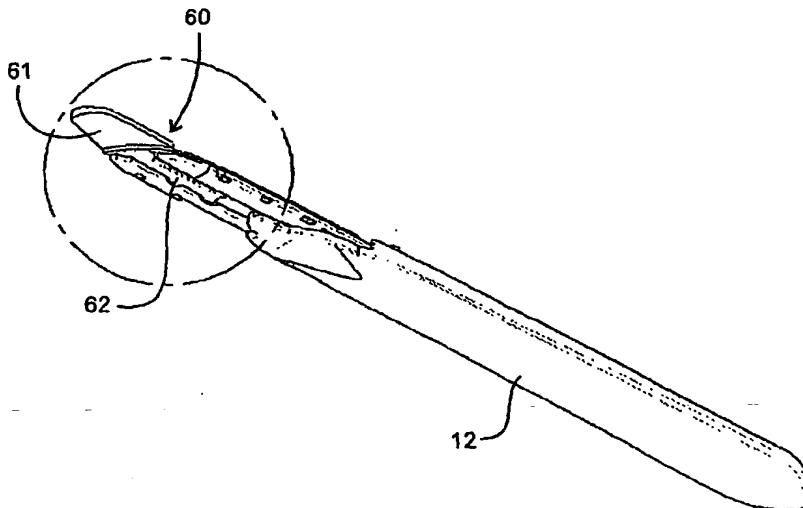
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(54) Title: SURGICAL SCALPEL WITH RETRACTABLE GUARD



(57) **Abstract:** A safety scalpel blade assembly adapted for attachment to a handle (12), the assembly comprising a scalpel blade (10) and guard (11) which extends at least about the cutting edge of the blade (10), the guard (11) having attachment means to lock the blade to the guard as the assembly is being attached to the handle and which releases the blade from the guard when the blade is attached to the blade carrier on the handle. Improvements include a removable safety tab (60) on the guard (11), means (68,71) to prevent the blade guard (11) lifting relative to the handle (12), a safely catch (75) to prevent excessive retraction of the guard (11) and location means (80,82) to locate the guard (11) in the extended and retracted positions.